

MR. HATCH: My name is Steven Hatch. I've worked at SUFCO for ten years. And at SUFCO, I live at three right west lease with several of my brothers go toil in the darkness with me every day so that you can come to an enclosed room, a windowless room, and have light so that we can see each other instead of the way that we see each other every day just with a little -- (Applause.) In the community in which I live, the mining industry is the lifeblood of our community. From the jaws at the mine to the trucks who haul the coal, to the rail lines that transport the coal, to the power plants and to the businesses that survive when all the money that comes in from these activities, it affects everyone's lives. We earn our money from the sweat of our brow, the strength of our bodies, the knowledge we have obtained not from a government subsidy. We live by the product we produce, reliable, affordable, and proven electricity. With all the talk of green energy, what have we gotten from these highly-subsidized industries? In one word, Solyndra. For those of you who don't know what Solyndra is, it was the company that produced solar panels during the great economic stimulus package that came out. They were given \$500 million, a little more than that. And what happened? Shortly thereafter, they filed bankruptcy protection. What did we get to show for our investment? And that's all of our tax money. And it can be summed up in two words, crony capitalism. Money that would have been spent retrofitting clean coal technology and existing plants while we look for alternatives. This week, I came across two stories that show what is in store for the American consumer. And this happened this week. According to the Institute of Energy Research, which stated, Sweden has already started to dismantle their wind turbines, 50 so far. In Germany, on May 8, at 11:00 a.m., they almost fried their whole power grid. The problem with wind and solar is it is intermittent and thus uncontrollable by the power system. The Daily Caller also reported in Denmark -- and this is a country that faces the highest energy costs in Europe -- officials have deemed wind energy too costly for the consumer. These are three case studies that show that renewable energy is not up to the task of reliable, affordable energy. For families struggling to make ends meet in this economy, how are they to pay for the skyrocketing cost that renewable energy will cost and that the government has to subsidize to stay alive? If it has to be subsidized and cannot survive on its own, how good is it really? In the words of President Ronald Reagan,

as he so eloquently stated, "Government is not the solution. Government is the problem." (Applause.)